National insurance scheme for farmer

1513. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who are covered under National Insurance Scheme in the country till 2008-09;

(b) the figure of claims made by the farmers under this scheme till 2008-09; and

(c) percentage of claims settled by the Insurance Companies under this scheme till 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Since inception of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in Rabi 1999-2000 to Rabi 2008-09, total number of 13,45,40,946 farmers have been covered.

(b) and (c) As per provisions of the scheme, farmers are not required to file/lodge any claims. The scheme operates on area approach basis. Accordingly, the payment of claims in a notified area becomes payable if there is a short fall in yield against guaranteed yield due to any non-preventable risk in other words, if the current season's yield is less than the threshold yield of the notified unit area for the insured crop, all farmers in the notified area growing insured crop become eligible for compensation.

Indemnity claims under the scheme are calculated and settled by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which is the Implementing Agency of the Scheme. AIC have cleared the calims amounting to Rs.12,68,539.88 lakh till Kharif 2008 season. Out of these claims, 94% have already been settled by AIC. The claims of Rabi 2008-09 season are not yet processed by the AIC as the cut off date for receipt of yield data commences from July onwards depending upon the State and Crop notified.

Utilisation of marine resources

1514. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to ensure maximum utilisation of our resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and deep sea areas of our country;

(b) whether Government will give assistance to exploit such marine resources;

(c) the number of deep sea fishing trawlers presently using our waters; and

(d) the targets set for the next three years in deep sea fisheries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy, 2004 has been adopted for sustainable development of fisheries in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Deep sea fishing guidelines are also under operation under which Letter of Permits (LOP) are issued to the Indian Companies/firms to operate resource specific deep-sea fishing vessels to fish in the Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters.